

BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY
HISTORY OF THE CREE INDIAN TRANSLATION
OF THE SCRIPTURES

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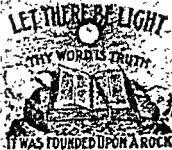
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British & Foreign Bible Society

History of the Cree Indian Translation of the Scriptures

As early as 1847 the Cree Indians had a form of writing, and St. John's Gospel was published for them at Rossville, Norway House, north of Lake Winnipeg. Dr. Anderson, the first Bishop of Rupert's Land, took out with him from the Bible Society in England, in 1849, a supply of Scriptures, and every year afterwards a grant was sent to the Red River Settlement by the ship that sailed in May.

There were then three depots in Canada of the British and Foreign Bible Society; the first having been established in 1822



BIBLE HOUSE
WINNIPEG



BIBLE HOUSE
LONDON, ENG.

The Venerable Archdeacon MacKay, D.D.
of Prince Albert, Saskatchewan.

The British and Foreign Bible Society translator of the Cree Indian Bible.

at York Factory, the second at Red River, and the third at Cumberland House.

In 1853 a thousand copies of the Gospel of St. John were sent to Moose Fort for distribution. From Newfoundland nearly 14,000 Bibles and Testaments were distributed in the early days, and through Labrador, special editions of 1,000 each were sent at different times to Vancouver Island, where the Chinook Indian language is spoken.

The Bible Society has been translating, publishing and distributing the Scriptures in Canadian languages for nearly 97 years, until at last 30 languages of the native Indian tribes have the Word of God.

Ojibwae.

OJIBWA (*R. C. char.*)

(*Saulteaux Indians.*)

Gaepij shauendk sv vishemanito iu aki, ogionjimi-
giuenvn iniu etv tibinaue gaoguisijin, aueguen drsh
getebueienimaguen jibvhatizisig, jiaia drsh go iu
kagige bimatiziuin.

BLACKFOOT INDIAN

(*E. of the Rocky Mountains.*)

Spr. d. Schwarzsuss-Indianer.

Indien Blackfoot.

(*Oestl. vom Felsengebirge.*)

(*A l'est des Montagnes
Rocheruses.*)

Jesus it ün is'tsiu aie, mat'sin aip, ki mat aksaks
ksin o au'ats Nin'a, kit ap'is to tok ä.—*Matt. 4. 7.*

Even Greenland has been linked with the Canadian work, as four Mission Stations of the Brethren have been supplied with versions and consignments prepared by the Bible Society.

The first complete Bible that the Cree Indians possessed was in Swampy Cree, not in plain Cree. There is a considerable difference between the two. [See sample of language opposite.]

At last the Bible Society decided to get a complete Bible with revised type translated into the Cree Indian language. As an initial step they corresponded with Archbishop Machray, from the headquarters in London, England, as to the best ways and means to procure a reliable edition. A committee was called to consider so important a proposition. It was organized with

MOHAWK.

(Indians W. of Niagara.)

Iken ne Yehovah egh ne s'hakonoronghkwa
n'ongwe, nene rodewendeghton nene raonhàon
rodewedon rohhàwak, nene onghka kiok teyaka-
weghdaghkon raonhage yaghten a-onghtonde, ok
denghnon aontehodiyendane ne eterna. adonhèta.

Qnāgutl. **QUĀGŪTL or KWĀGŪTL.** Qāgutl.
(Vancouver's Island.)

(Vancouver-Insel.) (Ile de Vancouver.)

Kā God tāks aula ā tlāhwila nūq sa awināgwisik,
lā gitl tsī zaw sīs hīgāmā Kwanūq, kā kisikl tsī tlił
kli da ūqis klā kī, lā glākl hīmunis oilākl.

Haida. **HAIDA.** Haida.
(British Columbia.)

(Britisch Kolumbien.) (Colombie Britannique.)

Shanung-itlagadas hēt-tligai kwoyādagun alth,
Gitang swonshuns tla ga il isdagun, la nung yet-
dasdlu gum il gū-uns gien, il hēnung-a-swonung-ai
una.

MICMAC.

(Indians of Nova Scotia.)

(Nou-Schottland.) (Nouvelle-Écosse.)

Mudu Niescam teliksateus usitecumu wedji
igunum-wedgub-unn ntuktu-bistadjul ucwisul,
culaman m'sit wen tan kedlamsite utjuincu, mā
unmadtjinpuw, cadu uiscotz apcuawe mimadjuocun.

CREE, Eastern, or Swampy (Latinchar.)

Weya Muneto ā ispeche saketaupun uske,
kē mūkew oo pauko-Koosisana, piko una
tapwātowayitche numoweya oo ga nissewun-
atissēty, maka oo ga ayāty kakekū pimatisso-
win.

regular officers to conduct the business. Mr. Burman was secretary. Those who sat in the Council were Bishop Holmes, of Athabasca, Bishop Anderson of Moosonee, the Rev. Mr. Steiner of the Methodist Church with Rev. E. B. Glass, also a Methodist. Mr. Cook, another Anglican, and Archdeacon McKay completed the Council. As all these were acquainted with the language under discussion, it was decided to form themselves into a revision and translation committee, and, since the general work of each filled up his time, it was decided to devote their vacations to the work. The Gospel of St. Matthew was the first undertaken and completed. But the work proved to be no sinecure. Difficulties presented themselves which consumed the time till it was observed that a lifetime was inadequate to such a task if their vacations were all given to the enterprise. The next attempt was to apportion to each man a share of the work. Dr. McDougal was entrusted with the Pentateuch, Archdeacon McKay was given 1st and 2nd Samuel and Daniel, and others had books in like proportions. But this proved but little better, as the respective men already had more work to do than their strength and the limits of their time would permit.

Another difficulty arose. When the Committee came together to consider the translation, it was found that a new task devolved upon them which had not been formerly considered. The proof sheets from England must be corrected, and as these were set up by printers who did not understand the language, the corrections were endless. No time could be given to further translations, but when, later, revised proof sheets needed reading, and new proof sheets needed reading, and new manuscripts awaited preparation, the work had so multiplied as to be impossible under existing conditions. At last, the Committee, foreseeing the impossibility of ever getting an adequate Bible under present methods, resolved that one of their number should be set aside to give his whole time to the work till it was completed. The Bible Society had already offered to bear the whole expense of translating and printing the edition. It was decided that Archdeacon McKay should be relieved of all other duties and that he should be put on the regular staff of the Bible Society at their headquarters in London, England, till the edition was complete, and a revised Bible given to the Cree nation. But, as the demands of his work in the Canadian North West were so great, it was afterwards arranged that six months

of each year should be spent in England translating and revising proofs, and the remainder among the tribes to whom he ministered. For three years this arrangement was carried out. The Archdeacon carried with him the partially prepared manuscripts of his colleagues, their notes and the proof sheets, and set to work to bring them all to some order.

The first measure was to prepare a method of writing which was legible to the printers. For this purpose the Bible Society had a typewriter fitted with Cree characters. With this, Archdeacon McKay wrote the whole Bible, which is now published complete, as well as in parts, and is being distributed among the Indians of our land.

23. 'b NVARQ' abad-LN9C; aLd-96: σ b P(L).
 'σ AΓΓM' ΔC ∇ ∇-C'δrδb'; σ Δ)'CΔ' r'σ
 ∇ P-Γ δLp σΛL.
 'Γa-r'σ σ' dL'b'; σ P'pδCΔ' b-L'b-NrΔ' Γ'bΔ' ∇
 Δ-Δ' D'f
 '∇'∇, ΔC A'JUs ∇ d-LNΔ' ΔC ∇ d'bd'U'b9' σ>Δ',
 aL 96: b L-L' σ b δ'U; r9L P Δ-ΓΔ'; P r'σ9-
 Δ-a'N' Γa P L'b'Da'N' σ σ'δ'rδbδ.
 'd-L'CLΔ' r'ΓΔ-Δ' ∇ bδd-CΓ' b σrδ-Δ'fΔ'f;
 P P'CLδ'σ σ'N'b' AΓ D'f, σ fσb'b' L'(>∇-C-σ.
 'Γ-L-NrΔ' Γa P-Γ-NrΔ' L Δ-σ σ b AΓN'δδ
 Δ-δ' 9 A'L-Nr', ∇δr b NVARQ ∇ d-L'b'Δbσ σ b
 Δ-P' bP9.

PSALM XXIII, IN CREE.

This story of the preparation of the Cree Indian Scriptures is duplicated in every instance where the Society prepares its hundreds of translations.

One thing more of interest remains. When the Bible Society has prepared a form of writing, and has translated the Bible, and printed it, the plates are then electrotyped; the type being thus set free to assist in preparing other literature. It thus forms the basis of their future education.

The Cree Indians are using their type in Battleford, Saskatchewan, to print a newspaper called "The Truth," but printed in Cree syllabics.

The Pa

Below is a list of languages in which the British and Foreign Bible Society has translated, prepared and supplied Scriptures for native Indians.

Aztec	Cree Moose Dialect	Maya
Beaver	Cree Western Dialect	Mic-Mac
Blackfoot	Dominica French Patols	Mohawk
Bribri	Eskimo Baffins Land	Mosquito
Cakvhiquel	Eskimo Labrador	Ojibwa
Carib	Haïda	Quiche
Chinook	Iroquols	Slavi
Chipewyan	Kwa-Guti	Tinne
Cree Eastern Dialect	Maliseet	Tukudh

The British and Foreign Bible Society



WITH WHICH IS AFFILIATED

THE CANADIAN BIBLE SOCIETY



AUXILIARY ORGANIZATION

The Manitoba and Saskatchewan Bible Society

You are earnestly invited to co-operate in the translation work, the printing and distribution through colporteurs and Bible women of the Scriptures in 110 languages in Canada, and in our 600 languages world wide.

Make Christ known through the Word.

CONTRIBUTIONS CAN BE SENT TO

REV. E. SALTER, Secretary for Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

BIBLE HOUSE, 184 ALEXANDER AVENUE EAST, WINNIPEG.

Tinne.

TINNE.

Tinne.

(Mackenzie River Indians.)

טפס דנ'ד דב' טפס' דפ' ט'ל' דנטנ',
 ע' ט' דפ' דנ' דפ' ט' ד' ט' ד' ד' ד'
 דנ' דפ' ד' ד' ד' ד' ד' ד' ד'.

Irokesisch.

IROQUOIS.

Iroquois.

(Canada.) (Indians in Quebec and Ontario.) (Canada.)

Aseken ne Niiō tsini sakohnorōnk8ahon nonkSe,
 iah tatesakohnonhianiheli n'enskat ok rōširāien, asā-
 kaon tosa aiahiheie tsini iakon tiaka8etakon raonhake,
 ok eken taton neh aiakoientake ne raonhake aietzenri
 atsennonniat.

Maliseet.

MALISEET.

Maleiset.

(Indians in New Brunswick.)

Eebüchül Nükskam ēdooche-moosajitpūn ooskit-
 kūmīkw wējemeloōētpūn wihwebu Ookwōōsūl, wē-
 laman mseu wēn tan wēlāmsūtūk oohūkek, skatūp
 ūksekāhāwe. kānookūloo ooteīnp askūmowsoagūn.

Tukudh.

TUKUDH.

Toukoudh.

*(Indians on Youcon River.)**(Schel-Indianer.)**(Indiens Loucheurs.)*

Kwuggut yoo kwikkīt Vittekwichanchyo
 nunhikug kettinizhin tīt Tinji ettetvirzi ettiyin
 kwuntlanttshi chootin te yik kinjizhit rsyetetgi-
 titēlya kkwa kenjit kō sheg kwundui tettiya.

OJIBWA or CHIPPEWA *(Latin choir.)*

Odschibwäe.

(Inland, South of Hudson's Bay.)

Apeech zhahwaindung sah Keshamunedoo ewh
 ahkeh, ooge-oonje megewanun enewh atah tatabe-
 nahwa Kahoogwesejin, wagwain dush katapwa-
 yainemabgwain chebalmahdezesig, chealyong dush
 goo ewh kahkenig pemahtezewin.



BAPTISTE or "OLD BUCHEES."

"OLD BUCHEES" is a typical Cree Indian of the old school—a type fast passing away—the new conditions of things producing a somewhat different type of the rising and younger generation. This old man, now nearing the eighties, has spent practically his whole life in the district of Battleford, in the Saskatchewan country. He has always been an industrious Indian, supporting himself and family by his own efforts, while many others depended upon Government aid or charity for their living. He has always been loyal to the British flag, and shewed this very plainly during the troubles in 1885, when many Indians were induced to join the rebel forces. "Buchees" and his brother, Chief Red Pheasant, with those of their followers who were loyal, separated themselves from the disloyal party, and remained loyal all through the trouble. We may add that the chief and "Old Buchees," with their relatives and followers who showed their loyalty were members of the Church of England. Buchees is still living, though now old, deaf and feeble, on the Red Pheasant Reserve, Eagle Hills, in the Battleford Agency.

The British and Foreign Bible Society.

KEY TO THE CREE SYLLABIC SYSTEM. VOWELS.

as in hate, ā	as i in pin, e	as in no, o	as in pun, u	as in pan, a	Final Con- sonants.
▽	△	▷	◁	◁	
W wā ▽	we △	wo ▷	wu ◁	wa ◁	
P pā ∨	pe ∧	po >	pu <	pa <	
T tā ∪	te ∩	to ∪	tu ∩	ta ∩	
K kā ∩	ke ∩	ko ∩	ku ∩	ka ∩	
Ch chā ∩	che ∩	cho ∩	chu ∩	cha ∩	
M mā ∩	me ∩	mo ∩	mu ∩	ma ∩	
N nā ∩	ne ∩	no ∩	nu ∩	na ∩	
S sā ∩	se ∩	so ∩	su ∩	sa ∩	
Y yā ∩	ye ∩	yo ∩	yu ∩	ya ∩	

Final oo

„ i

Aspirated final k

Extra signs— X = Christ, z = r, 3 = l, 4 = wi,

" = h before a vowel.

" = a soft guttural h when before a consonant.

By means of the above you can learn to read Cree
at once. See other side.



By means of this Key of the Cree Syllabics invented by Rev. James Evans, Lord Dufferin was able to read to the Indians the first day he was with them. Missionaries without any knowledge of the language can read the Bible to the Cree Indian at once and be fully understood. Read this.

Ima^{ne}) to L^o) maneto = Spirit.

One V^{pa} o V^{hepa} = Water.

One [←]ya o [←]neya = I.

P^{ke} [←]ya P[←] keya = Thou

One V^{pa} ^o n o V^{hepa} n = Summer

For the final "n" of the above, and for the final "t" below, see final consonants in the chart.

Tma (ta (ta 't 7 (i' matatat = ten.

9ka o na V^{pa} k 9 o V^{hepa} k = Snake.

Cree-Naheyowuk—the exact people. Dr. John Maclean says: "Judging from the grammatical construction of their language, its beauty and harmony, and the influence it has exerted over the other languages, the Crees have a righteous title to their significant name."

Archdeacon Phair, when asked why the Indian learned to read so quickly said,—

1st.—Because an Indian applies himself to a task with a steadfastness and persistency that I find nowhere else.

2nd.—There is nothing in his way. The cares of life are far removed from him and his mind is free.

3rd.—The characters in which his language is written were invented by one who understood the Indian mind. The letters are reduced to the lowest number possible and the writing is phonetic.

You are invited to assist in translating and spreading the Word.

Contributions can be sent to

Manitoba and Saskatchewan Bible Society

BIBLE HOUSE, 184 ALEXANDER AVE. EAST, WINNIPEG.